

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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R 100917Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8187

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN VIEWS ON ASEAN MILITARY PACT

1. VISIT TO INDONESIA BY MALAYSIAN VICE DEFENSE MINISTER MOCHTAR BIN H. HASYIM DECEMBER 6-13 AND ANTICIPATION OF VISIT BY THAI PM THANIN DECEMBER 10-11 HAVE FOCUSSED LOCAL ATTENTION ON SUBJECT OF ASEAN MILITARY COOPERATION AND ADVISABILITY OF MILITARY PACT. GENERAL SENTIMENT SEEMS TO WELCOME COOPERATION ON BILATERAL BASIS WHILE ESCHEWING FORMAL ASEAN PACT.

2. MOCHTAR, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY ARMY CHIEF MG DATO GHAZALI AND DEFENSE DEPUTY SEC-GEN ENCIK WAN MANSOR BIN ABDULLAH, CAME AT INVITATION OF INDONESIAN DEPUTY ARMED FORCES COMMANDER GENERAL SURONON TO DISCUSS BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION. HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT SUHARTO DEC. 7 AND LATER TOLD REPORTERS THAT EXISTING JOINT EFFORTS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA AND BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND THAILAND ARE EFFECTIVE ENOUGH IN OVERCOMING THE DANGER POSED BY COMMUNIST INFILTRATION WITHOUT A FORMAL MILITARY

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ALLIANCE. RATHER THAN ESTABLISH SUCH A PACT THE

ASEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS ON MAKING THEIR PEOPLE MORE PROSPEROUS MOCHTAR SAID.

3. MOCHTAR VISITED SEVERAL MILITARY FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE MILITARY INDUSTRY (PINDAD) IN BANDUNG WHICH PRODUCES LIGHT WEAPONS. AFTER THIS VISIT, INDONESIAN DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL PANGGABEAN ANNOUNCED THAT INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE IN WEAPONS PRODUCTION TO MINIMIZE DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN SOURCES. PANGGABEAN SAID COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE PRODUCTION OF AT LEAST LIGHT WEAPONS WAS FEASIBLE, AND DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDED INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION INCLUDING THAILAND, THE PHILIPPINES AND SINGAPORE. SUCH EXPANSION, HE SAID, WOULD REQUIRE THAT THE ASEAN COUNTRIES FIRST AGREE ON A COMMON STANDARDIZATION.

4. PANGGABEAN ALSO CATEGORICALLY RULED OUT ANY MILITARY ALLIANCE WITHIN ASEAN. HIS VIEWS WERE ECHOED DEC. 9 BY THE CHIEF OF STAFF FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY GENERAL HASNAN HABIB, WHO TOLD REPORTERS THAT WHILE A STANDARDIZATION OF WEAPONS IS NEEDED IN THIS REGION FOR ENHANCED MILITARY EFFICIENCY, THERE IS NO INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING AN ASEAN MILITARY PACT.

5. SPEAKING IN KUALA LUMPUR DEC. 9, FONMIN ADAM MALIK STATED THAT NONE OF THE ASEAN LEADERS WISHED TO CREATE WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION A MILITARY PACT SUPPORTED BY FOREIGN POWERS. INDONESIAN SEC-GEN FOR ASEAN UMARJADI REPEATED THIS VIEW TO EMBOFF DECM 10, POINTING OUT THAT EVEN A PACT WITHOUT OUTSIDE SUPPORT WOULD PUT IN QUESTION THE NON-ALIGNED STATUS OF THE MEMBER NATIONS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE RECENT COMMENTS BY THAI PM THANIN ON ASEAN MILITARY COOPERATION AGAINST COMMUNIST THREATS WAS NOT INTENDED TO SUGGEST A FORMAL ASEAN PACT BUT RATHER INTENSIFIED BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN ASEAN MEMBERS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE INCLUSION OF ADMIRAL SANGAD AND GENERAL KRIANGSAK IN THANIN'S PARTY WAS SEEN HERE AS AN INDICATION OF THE HIGH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANCE ASSIGNED BY THE THAI TO MILITARY AND SECURITY CONSULTATIONS WITH INDONESIA ON THIS TRIP.

6. IN DEC. 10 EDITORIAL, LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY KOMPAS ENDORSED OFFICIAL GOI VIEWS AND CALLED FOR INCREASED BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN ASEAN MEMBERS BUT NO ASEAN MILITARY PACT.
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